

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. ROBERT RHODES**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that a criminal complaint was filed today in which Department of Homeland Security Inspector Robert Rhodes, 43, of Niagara Falls, New York, is charged with committing a criminal violation of the civil rights of a Chinese tourist by causing bodily injury to the tourist. The alleged violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6))**.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Trini E. Ross and Martin J. Littlefield said the complaint charges Inspector Rhodes with causing bodily injury to the Chinese tourist at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, New York, during the evening of July 21, 2004.

The complaint resulted from an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility, under the direction of Robert Tevens, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin. Ervin said DHS employees should be held to the highest standards, and "We take all allegations of deprivation of rights very seriously."

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